



NEWS...

From

Legislator Tom Cilmi

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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR TOM CILMI URGES COLLEAGUES TO RESIST THE TEMPTATION



Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi (R-Bay Shore) is urging members of the Legislature to resist the temptation and not accept member item money buried in the 2011 omnibus budget amendment.

“We haven’t seen the final draft of the omnibus budget bill yet,” said Cilmi, “but I would hope my colleagues think long and hard about supporting any effort to set aside millions of dollars for earmarks at a time when taxpayers have been bled dry.”

The “omnibus” bill, as it’s referred, is an amendment to the County Executive’s budget which typically adds and deletes a number of varied expense and revenue items from the budget. It has been customary for the Legislature to include in the amendment a certain amount of money for each legislator to dole out as they see fit. Cilmi says there just isn’t enough money coming in this year to justify the spending.

Cilmi said, “At a time when we’re talking about closing a nursing home, and at a time when gangs, drugs and crime are ruining communities, and at a time when we can’t afford to hire County employees to perform

necessary functions, how can we possibly justify giving almost \$3 million to legislators to redistribute to their favorite organizations?”

Cilmi says there is more than \$100 million already allocated in the budget for contract agencies. He asks, “Do they really need to squeeze another \$3 million out of the taxpayers?”

Legislator Cilmi acknowledges that many of the groups perform valuable functions but he says taxpayers can’t afford it all. “Sometimes you just have to say ‘no’.”

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